

Patron Conduct Policy

I. Principle

San Antonio Public Library provides equal and open access to its facilities and resources. While everyone has an equal right to access library services and facilities, no person has the right to interfere with the ability of others to use and enjoy library resources, services, and facilities.

II. Prohibited Actions

A. To provide an enjoyable library experience for everyone, the following actions are prohibited on library property:

1. Possess weapons, except licensed concealed weapon carriers.
2. Possess alcohol or any illegal substance or be intoxicated (whether by alcohol or other mind altering drugs) to the point of impairment of his/her mental or physical abilities.
3. Exhibit disruptive, uncontrolled, unsafe, or inappropriate behavior.
4. Intentionally cause any physical damage to Library property or the personal property of any other patron.
5. Use the Library's computers or network for illegal activity.
6. Smoke in any area of the library.
7. Bring animals into the library, except for guide dogs/animals that accompany and assist persons who are physically challenged.
8. Enter the library without shoes and shirts.
9. Present bodily hygiene that is distracting to customers or staff to the point that it interferes with customers' use of library resources or with staff work.
10. Bring drinks without lids into the library.
11. Trespass into any area closed to the public.
12. Violate any federal, state or local criminal laws.

III. Consequences of Prohibited Actions

- A. Any person committing any one or more of the above defined prohibited actions will be verbally asked to stop. If the prohibited action continues, staff will ask the individual to leave the library for the rest of the day.

B. Any person who commits any one or more of the prohibited actions repeatedly or who commits a serious violation of any of the prohibited actions, or who, in the judgment of the Librarian in Charge, poses a threat to others in the library may be expelled from library premises for up to three years. The length of expulsion is at the discretion of the Manager and should be appropriate to the infraction.

1. The Librarian in Charge shall provide written notice to the person who has been expelled as soon as reasonably possible. The written notice shall inform the person of their right to a hearing in front of an Assistant Director of the Library Department, at which the person shall be allowed to present evidence and argue that they have been wrongly expelled from the premises.
2. If a person who has been expelled returns to the library before the defined time period has expired or if they refuse to leave the library when asked to do so, library staff may call the police to have the person removed and prosecuted for criminal trespass.
3. This expulsion may apply to single or multiple library locations, depending on the nature of the infraction.

Approved: Library Board of Trustees
May 28, 2008


Jean Brady, Board Chair